**SC/ST employees in Banks**

1776. SHRI GANDHI AZAD: Will he Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state the posted strength of SC/ST employees in each A, B, C and D category in all the Nationalised banks and the details of backlog, if any?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAN): The posted strength and backlog of SC/ST employees cadre wise reported by the 9 nationalised banks as on 30.6.1998 is given under:—

| | Posted Strength | | Back log | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Cadre | SC | ST | SC | ST |
| Officers | 19,664 | 7,035 | 149 | 106 |
| Clerks | 43,806 | 11,638 | 601 | 835 |
| Sub-staff | 33,419 | 7,273 | 366 | 664 |

**Income tax exemption for new industries in North-East**

1777. SHRI KHAGEN DAS: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have decided to give Income Tax exemption for a period of ten years to new industries to be set up in the North-East;

(b) if so, when was such a decision taken; and

(c) by when Government propose to notify such exemption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (BANKING, REVENUE AND INSURANCE) (SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAN): (a) and (b) Yes. On 20th December, 1997 the Government of India approved a new industrial policy and other concessions for the North-East. Under the new industrial policy, the Cabinet has approved for converting the growth centres and I.I.D.Cs into a total tax free zone for the next ten years. All industrial activity in these zones would be free from income-tax for a period of ten years from the commencement of production.

Similar benefits would also be extended to the new industrial units or their substantial expansion in other growth centres or I.I.D.Cs or industrial estates/ parks/export production zones set up by the States in the North-Eastern region.

(c) Under the existing provisions, a ten year two tier tax holiday benefit under section 80 IA is available to the units set up in industrially backward States including the North-East States. Under the provision, 100% deduction from profits in the first five year and 30% of the profits in the subsequent five years for units set up before 31.3.2000 is allowed.

Under Section 10A and section 10B of the Income-tax Act, tax holiday for five years is allowed to units located in free trade zones and export oriented units. These can be availed of by such units in the North-East region.

Amendment to the Income-tax Act would be required to give effect to policy decisions for industrial units in the North-East. The details of growth centres/ IIDCs/Estates/Export Promotion Zones set up by the States in the region is being obtained for making suitable changes in the statute. These are under consideration as part of 1999-2000 budgetary exercise.